

the little Alsace of Texas
CASTROVILLE
★ TEXAS ★



JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



BEST OF BUSINESS

*Magnolia
Filling Station*

BEST OF RESIDENTIAL

*Jamie
Sotelo*

RESIDENTIAL RUNNER-UP

*Robertson
Family*



**Light Up
CASTROVILLE**

CLIP & SAVE

2025 Utility Bill Payment Due Dates



Payments are due by 5 PM on the 25th of each month, unless the 25th falls on a weekend or holiday, then the due date will be by 5 PM on the **next business day**. All accounts not paid by 5 PM on the due date will incur a late charge.

Please call (830) 931-4090 if you have any questions about your utility bill or email customerservice@castrovilletx.gov

2025 BILL PAYMENT DUE DATES

JAN 27	FEB 25	MAR 25
APR 25	MAY 27	JUN 25
JUL 25	AUG 25	SEP 25
OCT 27	NOV 25	DEC 26

Payment Due Date BEFORE Cut-Off

JAN 3	FEB 5	MAR 7
APR 4	MAY 5	JUN 5
JUL 7	AUG 4	SEP 4
OCT 6	NOV 6	DEC 5

NOTE: We do not cut-off utilities during extreme weather conditions or on Fridays. Penalties will still apply.

ELECTION TIME IS COMING!

General Election
May 3, 2025

The City of Castroville will be accepting applications for the positions of District 1, District 2, and Mayor beginning January 15, 2025 and ending on February 14, 2025. Qualifications for the open positions may be found at www.castrovilletx.gov under the City Secretary page - Elections. More information, including the full packet, will be available at City Hall, 1209 Fiorella, or from the city website after January 10, 2025. Application for a position must be submitted before the deadline of Friday, February 14, 2025 by 5:00 p.m. Please contact Debra Howe, City Secretary with any questions at debra.howe@casstrovilletx.gov or 830-931-4070 ext. 311.



Watch your water consumption: Winter Averaging Begins with November 10th bill

Conserving water during the months of October thru January can lower your monthly sewer charge!

What is winter averaging?

Winter averaging is a method developed to give you the best possible break on sewer billing cost. This method takes the water consumption used during the meter reading cycles from *October (November bill) to January (February bill)* as the basis for billing sewer charges throughout the year. We eliminate the highest of the four months, then average the remaining three months to determine how the rate will be calculated.

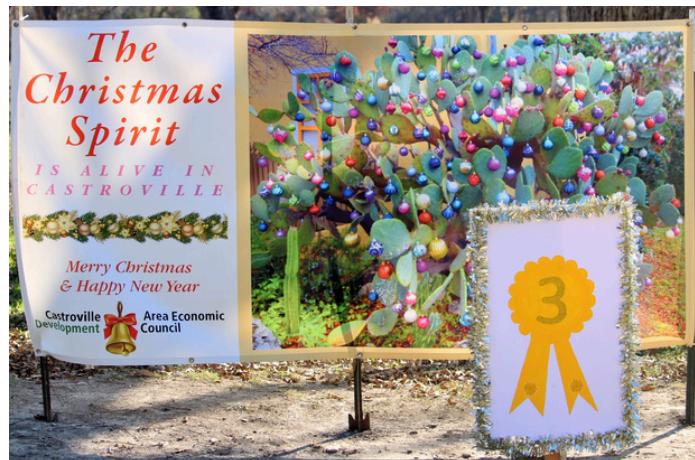
We use winter averaging to determine each individual resident's rate. This rate will begin on the March 10, 2025, bill and will be your rate through February 10, 2026, bill.

If you watch your water consumption/usage, then you can reduce your sewer bill.



CHRISTMAS CARDS IN THE PARK WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Christmas Cards in the Park! First place goes to the Castroville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for their outstanding creativity and holiday spirit. Second place is awarded to the Castroville Conservation Society for their beautiful and festive display. Third place goes to the Castroville Area Economic Development Council for their imaginative and heartwarming contribution. Thank you to all participants for spreading holiday cheer and making this event a memorable celebration for our community!



CASTROVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Wow, what a few months this has been here at the library. I would like to thank the City of Castroville, The Library Board, the Friends of the Library, the Castroville community and the very dedicated staff for their guidance and patience. We have done so many things in just a few months and are looking forward to a fun-filled and educational 2025. We will be implementing new programs, putting up a new sign and upgrading our technology. It's going to be a great 2025.

I want to personally thank the Medina County Women for Good for providing us with grant funds to put towards our upgraded technology. I greatly appreciate the Friends of the Library for being so proactive towards the wellbeing of the Castroville Library. You are the best!

I also want to thank the Library Advisory Board for their continued dedication to the future of the Castroville Library.

-- Beth Farley, Library Director

Murder Mystery Group

January 11th at 10:00 -- Limit of 6 so call to reserve your spot!

Learn with the Libby App

January the 14th and 30th from 10:00 to 10:45

Friends of the Library Meeting

January 14th at 6:30 -- See how you can make a difference!

After School Craft Group

January 15th from 3:00 to 5:00 -- Ages 6 and up

Magic the Gathering

January 16th and 30th from 5:00 to 8:30 -- Must be 16+ to sign up

Winter Tree Craft

January 16th from 5:30 to 7:00 -- Must be 16+ to sign up

Learn to Paint

January 18th from 10:00 to 1:00 -- Must be 16+ to sign up

D&D

January 23rd from 5:00 to 8:30 -- Must be 16+ to sign up

Tangle Time

January 23rd from 5:30 to 7:30 -- Learn a new skill: Zentangle

Writers Group

January 2th from 10:00 to 1:00 -- Come and Share your story!

Tarte aux Myrtilles Alsacienne (Alsatian Blueberry Tart)

*This blueberry tart is a simplified take on a French classic, replacing traditional crème fraîche with heavy cream for a more affordable and accessible option. Crème fraîche, a tangy cultured cream, is often expensive and hard to find, but this adaptation ensures the tart remains creamy and delicious without the added cost.

Ingredients

Sweet Tart Dough:

2/3 cups of Butter
2 1/2 cups of Flour
1 1/4 cups of Powdered Sugar
1 Egg
1/2 cup of Ground Almonds
2-3 cups of Blueberries
(depends on tart size)

Custard Filling:

1 Egg
1/4 cup of Sugar
1/4 cups of Heavy Cream

Directions

1. **Combine dry ingredients:** In a bowl, mix the flour, powdered sugar, and ground almonds.
2. **Cut in the butter:** Using your hands or a dough cutter, work the butter into the dry ingredients until the butter pieces are pea-sized.
3. **Mix in the egg:** Use one finger to mix the egg into the dough to keep the rest of your hand clean.
4. **Smear the dough:** Turn the mixture out onto a clean surface. Using the base of your palm, press and smear the mixture bit by bit across the surface to combine. Repeat this about three times, gathering the dough into a ball after each smear.
5. **Chill:** Form the dough into a ball, wrap it in plastic wrap, and refrigerate for 30 minutes.
6. **Preheat oven:** Set your oven to 190°C (375°F).
7. **Roll and shape:** Roll out the chilled dough on a lightly floured surface. Line your tart pan(s) with the dough, trimming any excess.
8. **Bake:** Bake the tart shell(s) for about 20 minutes, or until the bottom is lightly browned. Set aside to cool.
9. **Mix the custard:** In a bowl, whisk together the cream, eggs, sugar, and vanilla until smooth.
10. **Preheat oven:** Reduce the oven temperature to 170°C (350°F).
11. **Add blueberries:** Fill the cooled tart shell(s) with a generous mound of blueberries, as they will cook down.
12. **Pour custard:** Carefully pour the custard over the blueberries, stopping before it overflows.
13. **Bake:** Bake for 20-25 minutes, or until the custard is set. The tart should jiggle slightly when moved but show no liquid.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Mayor - Darrin Schroeder
210.232.4737

District 1 - Sheena Martinez
830.931.1328

District 2 - Paul Carey
210.710.4861

District 3 - Phil King
210.355.6546

District 4 - David Merz, Jr.
618.406.2940

District 5 - Herb Dyer
830.931.6354



MAYOR'S CORNER



mayor@castrovilletx.gov

YOUR VOICE MATTERS: LET'S KEEP OUR TOWN SAFE AND BEAUTIFUL TOGETHER

Dear Neighbors,

In the heart of our beloved Castroville, each of us holds a piece of its soul. Castroville is not just a collection of buildings and streets; it is a living, breathing community made up of our families, friends, and neighbors. When we unite and communicate openly, we can address issues quickly and effectively, ensuring our town remains the best place to live—a place filled with safety, beauty, and harmony.

If you see something wrong, whether it's a crime, a broken street sign, a dog attack in the park, or any other issue, please don't hesitate to report it. Your observations and reports are essential; they help our city staff respond promptly and keep our community safe and well-maintained. Remember, the city is not a faceless entity, it is us—our families, friends, and neighbors. We hire incredible and caring staff to handle day-to-day tasks, but they need our help to do their best. Our staff is dedicated to maintaining and improving our city, they can only succeed with our partnership and support.

As we consider updates to our codes and ordinances, your participation is crucial. While many have joined the conversation, there are still voices on social media that need to be heard directly by our elected officials. I urge you to reach out to the mayor or city council with your questions, concerns, and ideas. Your input is the lifeblood of our community, shaping its future and ensuring it reflects our shared values and aspirations.

Let us continue to work together, stay vigilant, and communicate openly. Together, we can nurture a town that is safe, beautiful, and thriving—a place we are all proud to call home.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Darrin Schroeder, Mayor

DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Mayor and City Council

Mayor - Darrin Schroeder
(210-232-4737) | mayor@castrovilletx.gov
District 1 - Sheena Martinez
(830-931-1328) | district1@castrovilletx.gov
District 2 - Paul Carey
(210-710-4861) | district2@castrovilletx.gov
District 3 - Paul Carey
(210-355-6546) | district3@castrovilletx.gov
District 4 - Paul Carey
(618-406-2940) | district4@castrovilletx.gov
District 5 - Paul Carey
(830-931-6354) | district5@castrovilletx.gov

City Hall

Customer Service Specialist - April Kilhorn
(830-931-4070) | customerservice@castrovilletx.gov
Finance Director - Leroy Vidales
(830-931-4070) | leroy.vidales@castrovilletx.gov
City Administrator - Scott Dixon
(830-931-4070) | scott.dixon@castrovilletx.gov

Airport

Emergency Phone - 830-538-4260
Airport Maintenance Supervisor - Pete Norstrom
(830-931-4090) | pete.norstrom@castrovilletx.gov

Police Department

Emergency Phone - 911
Non - Emergency Phone - (830-931-2222)
Police Chief - James Kohler
(830-931-2222) | PD@castrovilletx.gov

Public Works and Streets

Utility Emergencies - (830-931-4090)
Utility Billing Specialist - Patricia Lanford
(830-931-4090) | customerservice@castrovilletx.gov
Technical Services Supervisor - Kathy Adams
(830-931-4090) | pwadmin@castrovilletx.gov

Library

Library Director - Beth Farley
(830-931-4095) | beth.farley@castrovilletx.gov

Parks and Pool

Parks and Recreation Coordinator - Briana Tello
(830-931-0033) | briana.tello@castrovilletx.gov

Community Development

Community Development Director - Breana Soto
(830-931-4090) | permits@castrovilletx.gov

Animal Services

Animal Services - Josh Davidson
(830-931-5013) | josh.davidson@castrovilletx.gov

Code Enforcement

Code Compliance Officer - Kerl Brooks
(830-444-5542) | kerl.brooks@castrovilletx.gov